

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

Church of God Servant



Volume 52, No. 1

52nd Year

Guthrie, Oklahoma

35c Per Year

March, 1974

The Church's Jubilee

The light of eventide now shines the darkness to dispel,
The glories of fair Zion's state ten thousand voices tell;
For out of Babel God doth call His scattered saints in one,
Together all one church compose, the Body of His Son.

The Bible is our rule of faith and Christ alone is Lord,
All we are equal in His sight when we obey His Word;

No earthly master do we know, to man-rule will not bow,

But to each other and to God eternal trueness vow.

The day of sects and creeds for us forever more is past,

Our brotherhood are all the saints upon the world so vast;

We reach our hands in fellowship to every blood-washed one,

While love entwines about each heart in which God's will is done.

Oh, blessed truth that broke our bands! in it we now rejoice,

While in the holy church of God we hear our Savior's voice;

And gladly to His blessed will submissive we shall be,

And from the yokes of Babel's lords from henceforth we are free.

O church of God, the day of jubilee
Has dawned so bright and glorious for thee:

Rejoice, be glad! thy Shepherd has begun
His long divided flock again to gather into one.

—C. W. Naylor

God or a System, Which?

Personal love for God is the only safeguard for the soul against idolatry and error. When the tower builders agreed to construct the tower of Babel, they said, "Let us build for us a city and a tower, and a name." Let us build. Let US—God was left out of the question. It was a system, an organization without a personal God, which absorbed all their attention and devotion. All through the ages this "let us," Babylon-building spirit has been at work to hinder souls from seeing the ways of God; and it is still alive. "Let us build a city." "Let us form a committee;" "Let us organize"; "Let us kill this dreamer"; —it is an anti-Christ system or "ism" pitted against Christ, against the Father, and against the Holy Ghost.

The ancient temple builders defied the Father. Judaism defied the Son, Jesus Christ, and hid Him from the eyes of the people. It was not the law nor the prophets which opposed Him. Individuals who had kept strictly to these recognized the Christ even when He was a babe. But it was the builders, those who had built up a tower of self-righteousness and human traditions, who rejected Him and set Him at naught.

Those who believed on Him received the Spirit of truth to teach, guide, and accompany them with power. The builders of Judaism saw the boldness of Peter and John and were made to marvel at the name of Jesus Christ. Seeing also that these apostles were unlearned and ignorant men, they took knowledge of them that they had been with Jesus. But though they acknowledged the power of God upon them, and could not deny the miracle, still their idol must be first, so they commanded them not to speak at all nor to teach in the name of Jesus (Acts 4:18). That is the spirit of Babylon—idolatry from first to last. Our ism, our machinery must not be hindered, though the sick go unhealed, or the unsaved world go unevangelized. Well, how did the apostles answer this worldly-wise company? "But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto

"There is one body, and one spirit, . . . one hope, . . . one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all." Ephesians 4:4-6.

God, judge ye." (Acts 4:19). No, they would not bow their knee to the Babylonian idol. When they went to their own company, "they lifted up their voices to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God." (Acts 4:24). Turn to this page and read the chapter, and examine yourself to see whether you are up to this high-water mark. When holy-boldness and the Spirit of the Lord get a chance, things break up and give way. Ministers of God will not have to go in need while the laity live in comfort and luxury. Spare no idols, they are all of the enemy.

We all know that after the Apostolic day, Rome set herself up as God, or above all that is called God, and now her myriad daughters are universally repeating her sin, namely, making visible organizations and human authority to take the place of the Lord Jesus and the Holy Ghost. This is what the apostles call the mystery of iniquity. One writer says, "The Holy Ghost does not flow through methods, but through men. He does not come on machinery, but on men. He does not anoint plans, but men of prayer."

Another writer of former years so beautifully expressed the sentiments of this article that I will quote at length: "In loving God Himself, our individual souls have ample scope for the beautiful unfolding of our free wills, our consciences, our personal liberties without being hampered by the tyranny of popes or cast-iron forms. God made every immortal soul to swing around Himself with an orbit, and a service and a destiny entirely unique and forever and particularly belonging to itself." Within this orbit is also found the only true spiritual unity; for, "There are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all." (1 Cor. 12:6).

To love God personally and perfectly will produce the most perfect obedience and the most perfect heroism, and the most perfect destiny of which the soul is capable. But when people put a system, or party, or organization in their devotion, they sell their individuality of thought and service to a committee, or a company, or a system, and become like machine-made bricks in the tower of Babel, instead of living stones in the New Jerusalem. Just look at it; no Romish priest is allowed to give an explanation of Scripture not sanctioned by the cast-iron rules of Romish theology. A certain Methodist preacher said he was afraid to preach on divine healing for fear it was not sanctioned by Methodism. These both must sacrifice truth and conviction to their sect idol, and so tens of thousands are fettered in their faith, their burning zeal, their service for God, and the exercise of their gifts, by the iron cage of some stupendous "ism," which overshadows their souls and takes the place of God. To love God Himself, to commune with Him, to take His Word to ourselves personally, to obey Him with supreme personal loyalty, is our only true holiness and service. Keep yourselves from idols.

"We should not serve men nor systems,

That is not the Bible way;

But should follow Jesus,

Trusting Him to lead our way."

—Lottie L. Jarvis

... And Half Were Lost!

Once upon a time there was a little church with ten members. They were good people, and had all felt that "joy unspeakable" bubbling over in their souls when they had come to the Lord and experienced that miracle known as the "new birth." Like a bolt of lightning, the power of God had ignited their lives with divine love, peace and holiness to the extent that they were aglow with witness unto the world and an encouragement unto each other. On meeting days they all came together and feasted their souls on the manna from above and enjoyed the good spiritual fellowship one with another.

Sunday followed Sunday, as the river of time rolled quietly onward toward the ocean of eternity, and in the hearts of the people it seemed like things might for years to come remain pretty much as they were then. They were happy and contented. The Lord had blessed them with so much increase that there seemed to be hardly enough hours in the day to enjoy it all, and, anyway, wasn't the Lord taking care of things? What could a person do except to bask in the love of God and enjoy all the good things that He had bestowed upon him?

Then it happened! Like a thief in the night, with no immediate prior warning at all, the sky was suddenly split asunder as if by some great bolt of lightning from the far reaches of the universe, and the great rolling blare of a trumpet echoed from mountain to hill, announcing to one and all that time had finally run out and the great Judgment Day of Almighty God had settled upon the inhabitants of the earth.

For a while, chaos gripped the world. People rushed out of the taverns, dance halls, and stores and stared at the sky which was aglow with a multitude of "heavenly host" visible to the eyes of men. Some of the people fell upon their knees on the sidewalk, unmindful now of what others might think, and screamed into the wind for mercy. Others swore and cursed God or themselves, while others were seen to run wild-eyed in search of a hiding place.

About half of the Christians were rejoicing and adding to the din with shouts of "hallelujah" and "praise God," as faith changed into reality, and they realized that the long battle was over and their triumph was now final and complete. The Redeemer had finally come for them.

But the other half of those who wore the name of Christ stood amazed as the veil vanished away and the perfect holiness of God blazed forth in blinding light for all the world to see. They had believed, of course, that God was pure and righteous, but the extent revealed now is dramatic. It is perfect holiness which destroys every little shade of unrighteousness that it touches.

At last, but alas, too late now, these "five" realize that they fall a little short of the standard and are sure to be disowned by the King. They had never done anything really bad since their regeneration, but

the "little foxes" have truly "spoiled the vine." Those little differences are now staring them full in the face, and the "new light" that allowed these things suddenly appears as darkness when viewed alongside the glorious, pure light that surrounds the throne.

With great anguish of heart they realize that they are without their "wedding garment" and now stand condemned by their own conscience as those who have allowed the "cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches" to choke the Word and to strangle their spiritual life to death. They had so gradually allowed things to come in that they never saw any danger at all, until now!

Why, they were still in company with the ones that made it and they went through all the motions with them. They could "amen" the preacher louder than most and didn't they give more to the work than most of those now greeting the King on His right hand? Too late, dear souls, oh, too late, you have discovered that you have lost the essence, and all you now possess is an "empty form."

"What shall I do?" is the soul cry of these lost ones. Then they have an idea. It's not much, but better than no hope at all. A few of those they used to worship with seemed to have something deep inside that produced such a bubbling over of joy and desire to work for God and such a careful, holy life that their neighbors, and yes, their relatives too, were sometimes ashamed of them. Why, sometimes they even got in one another's way in their great desire to testify, or pray, or get to the pulpit—wasn't that ridiculous? No, somehow it doesn't seem so now. Remember that's what we had back in the beginning. That's it! That's what we lost! Quickly now, let's catch some of those, our friends, who are filling in to meet the King and ask them to share this thing with us. But, no, they sadly say, you must follow the ordained way. But now, these souls scream in anguish, time has ended and they cannot find another chance and there—oh, no, it's too horrible to be true, but it is! A great billowing lake of eternal fire filled with screaming, cursing demons and lost souls has suddenly appeared to the left and extends farther than the eye can see. Why, oh, why! why didn't we pay more attention to the needs of our souls while there was time? Now, we are lost at last!

Is this you I am writing about? Is this warning speaking to your soul? Do you recognize it? The "building blocks" can be found in the 25th chapter of Matthew in the parable of the ten virgins which Jesus used to illustrate these truths, and they are just as real today as they ever were. But it is with great sorrow of heart that I realize that some who read this will likely fulfill it. You go on your merry way and "think" you are saved, but haven't you ever heard that we are not saved by what we "think"? Don't you realize the meaning of the Scripture which teaches that this "mystery of salvation," and the glory of it, is "Christ in you" (Col. 1:27), and again, if a man has "not the spirit of Christ, he is none of his"? Do you think that Christ would do and say some of the things that you do? You had better step back

and inspect your life closely lest you become as one of the foolish virgins who allowed the great treasure of eternal life to slip through their fingers. The standard of God taught in the Bible is a complete holiness of life and one mind, that of Christ, for all His people. Would you pass the test right now?

—Jim Broker

"No Man Cared For My Soul"

(Psalm 142:4)

In one of our cemeteries the body of a fifteen-year-old girl, who was not a Christian, was being lowered into the grave. Her teacher remembered that, although she had been her teacher for two years, she had never had an earnest private conversation with Mary for the purpose of trying to lead her to Christ.

When she returned home from the funeral she could not rest; and going to the pastor, she made her confession and asked if he had ever had a conversation with Mary to try to lead her to Christ. The pastor broke down and wept and said that he had often thought of trying to lead the girl to Christ, but had been kept so busy with his pastoral visits that he had never talked with the girl. The teacher and pastor then went to the family residence of the girl, and, calling for the father, made their confession and asked the father if he had ever talked to her about salvation. The father broke down weeping and said he had often thought of talking to his child to lead her to Christ, but had been so busy with his business affairs that he had never done it. The mother was called and asked the same question. She began wringing her hands in anguish and said she had often considered talking to the girl, but had been so busy with her household affairs that she had neglected it. This girl had slipped through the hands of the four nearest to her, into eternity, without one earnest effort being made for her salvation.

This is not an isolated case; it is constantly being duplicated all over our land. May God help us!

—Selected

IT DEPENDS ON YOU

"What kind of people live in this town?" asked a stranger of a man in the Court House Square.

"Well, what kind of people lived in the town where you came from?" replied the native.

"They are the most selfish, meanest, crookedest people on earth," said the stranger.

"Well, you'll find the same sort of people in this town," drawled the old man.

On the following day another stranger approached the native in the square and asked the same question. The native asked him the same question he had asked the other stranger, and the man replied, "They are the most unselfish, finest, straightest people in the world."

"Well, you'll find the same sort of folks in this town," said the native with a smile.

—Sel.

SUBSCRIBE — Use the Envelope—3 years for \$1.00

"FAITH AND VICTORY"

16-PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY

This non-sectarian paper is edited and published in the interest of the universal CHURCH OF GOD each month (except August of each year, and we omit an issue that month to attend campmeetings) by Lawrence D. Pruitt, assisted by Marie Miles and other consecrated workers at the FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. 73044.

(Second class postage paid at Guthrie, Okla.)

Dated copy for publication must be received by the 18th of the month prior to the month of issue.

Notice to subscribers: Whenever you move or change your address, please write us at once, giving your old and new address, and include your Zip Code number. The post office charges 10c to notify us of each change of address.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Single copy, one year\$.35
Single copy, three years\$1.00
Roll of 4 papers to one address, one year\$1.00

Write for prices on larger quantities.

Subscribe to "The Beautiful Way," a weekly six-page paper for children, edited by Mrs. Marie Miles and published quarterly. Suitable for use in primary and junior Sunday school classes.

Single set for one year (52 papers)80c

This publication teaches salvation from all sin, sanctification for believers, unity and oneness for which Jesus prayed as recorded in John 17:21 and manifested by the apostles and believers after Pentecost. By God's grace we teach, preach, and practice the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, the same gospel which Peter, John, and Paul preached, taught, and practiced, including the divine healing of the body. James 5:14, 15.

Its motto: Have faith in God. Its object: The glory of God and the salvation of men; the restoration and promulgation of the whole truth to the people in this "evening time" as it was in the morning church of the first century; the unification of all true believers in one body by the love of God. Its standard: Separation from the sinful world and entire devotion to the services and will of God. Its characteristics: No discipline but the Bible, no bond of union but the love of God; and no test of fellowship but the indwelling Spirit of Christ.

Through the Free Literature Fund thousands of gospel tracts are published and sent out free of charge as the Lord supplies. Co-operation of our readers is solicited, and will be appreciated in any way the Bible and the Holy Spirit teaches you to do or stirs your heart. "Freely ye have received, freely give." Read Exodus 24:2; 1st Chron. 29:9; 2 Cor. 9:7; and Luke 6:38.

Free-will offerings sent in to the work will be thankfully received as from the Lord. Checks and money orders should be made payable to Faith Publishing House.

A separate Missionary Fund is maintained in order to relay missionary funds from our readers to the support of home and foreign missionaries and evangelists.

In order to comply with the Oklahoma laws as a non-profit religious work, the Faith Publishing House is incorporated thereunder.

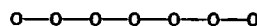
FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

P. O. Box 518, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. 73044
Office Phone 282-1479 Home Phone 282-2262

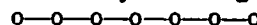
EDITORIALS



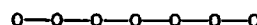
TO ONE AND ALL of the thousands of new readers who have been receiving this paper for the past two months, we extend a very special invitation to **SUBSCRIBE AT ONCE** and become a regular reader. Your friend, who had these trial issues sent to you, would like for you to continue receiving a copy each month. He believes that these Bible truths will be a spiritual benefit and blessing to you and your family. For the convenience of those whose subscriptions are **EXPIRING WITH THIS ISSUE**, we are enclosing a handy **BLUE OR YELLOW SUBSCRIPTION REMITTANCE ENVELOPE**. Just fill in the blank form with your name and address, enclose \$1.00, stamp and mail, and you will receive this paper each month (except August) for the next three years. Please do this **NOW** lest you forget it and miss the forthcoming issues which will contain messages of truth essential to your soul's welfare. May God bless each reader with heaven's richest benefits.



If any of our regular subscribers receives an expiration envelope this month, please disregard the expiration notice and pass the extra copy to someone else. Just consider that perhaps a friend had the paper sent to you on this special trial offer, not knowing that you were already receiving it.

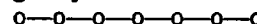


Let this be more than a slogan: **Spread the gospel more in this year of '74.**



This monthly gospel paper is going into many homes in this country as well as foreign nations. More than 15,000 copies of this issue will be printed, and we pray that the Holy Spirit will accompany every "white-winged" messenger and impress the Bible truth upon the mind and heart of every reader. Jesus said, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." Thank God for the precious freedom from sin and condemnation that we have found in believing and obeying the truth.

My sinner friend, our God is no respecter of persons, and He has the same experience for you. Won't you hear and heed the Saviour's gracious invitation? He is calling you with outstretched hands, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden [with sin], and I will give you rest."



In the call to fasting and prayer on each Wednesday, we want to include and encourage the many saints who are isolated from a congregation to also fast and pray on that day in an agreement in their homes with all the congregations for the many needs in these critical times. Special prayer is on each **Wednesday from 10:30 a. m. to 1 p. m., and on Wednesday night beginning at 7:30.** Some of the Guthrie saints meet in prayer at the chapel during the noon hour. Intercessory prayer for the Spirit of God to awaken souls is the only hope for perishing humanity. Precious souls are at stake! Let us seek God for a great-

er vision of and burden for home and foreign evangelism.

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

The flu epidemic has been sweeping this section of the country, closing schools and reducing the work force. Our pastor, Bro. Leslie Busbee, has been very sick with the flu and complications for more than two weeks. In answer to a special agreement of prayer, the Lord has undertaken for him and he is improving, for which we are indeed thankful. Also, we are grateful to the Lord for how He has undertaken for Bro. Eddie Wilson, minister of Danville, Ky., who was very low with the flu or pneumonia. Our Great Physician is abundantly able and willing to heal every sickness and disease. Let us trust and believe.

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

If you move, please advise us AT ONCE, giving your OLD and NEW address. The postoffice charges us 10 cents for each notification of a change of address. Thank you for your cooperation.

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

In stock at this office are more than 350 different titles of gospel tracts to be sent free in limited quantities for careful and prayerful, free distribution. Where prices are quoted, they are at cost or below. Write for a FREE 4-ounce sample to read and pass on, or enclose in your letters. One gospel tract may result in the salvation of many precious souls.

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Just off the press is a reprint edition of the book, "Holy Spirit Baptism and the Second Cleansing," by R. R. Byrum. It consists of 108 pages in a heavy paper cover. The price is 50c each, postpaid. This booklet, out of print for many years, should help one to discern the anti-cleansing heresy. Order a number of copies and pass them out to those who may be confused on this point. Also, in stock is an 8-page tract entitled, "Bible Proofs of a Second Cleansing," which was selected from this book. This tract will be postpaid to you for \$1.50 per 100 copies.

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Another reprint edition of the book, "Birth of a Reformation," by A. L. Byers, will be available in this month of March. Bound in a nice cloth cover, it contains 496 pages. The price is \$4.50 each, postpaid. Your order will be filled as soon as the books are completed.

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Write for a price list of other excellent books, many of which were written by the pioneer ministers of the Reformation. More of these old out-of-print books of vital truth will be reprinted as the Lord provides time, means, and printers. Watch for the publication dates of other reprints in future issues.

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

This March issue marks the beginning of the 52nd year of publication. The publishers and co-workers pause again in retrospect to thank God for His many blessings and answers to prayer in behalf of this literature ministry during the past half century, and now face the untried future with faith in God's omnipotent hand. Your continued prayers and co-

operation in the gospel publishing work will surely be appreciated.

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Following is a brief historical sketch of the Lord's publishing work:

In June, 1918, Fred and Mary Pruitt with their four children moved to Guthrie, Okla., from Clovis, New Mexico, driving through in a 1916 Model T Ford car, requiring three days over rough unpaved roads.

In New Mexico, my parents had previously heard and embraced the truth of this Reformation, and were baptized by Brother George E. Harmon, the pastor at Clovis. My father answered the Lord's call to the ministry about the year 1915. At Guthrie he continued in evangelistic and mission work, as well as working with another in the printing and circulation of gospel literature. In the year 1923, he launched out by faith, and with the aid of a few close associates, he began (free of charge for seven years) the publication of this paper which, by unfailing blessings of the Lord, has continued and expanded in circulation and effectiveness through the years.

Feeling a definite call of God and seeing the urgent need for world-wide gospel literature evangelism, my father placed all of his earthly possessions, which included several thousand dollars from the sale of his homestead and property in New Mexico, into buildings and printing machinery for the production of Christian literature.

In 1926, the masonry shop building attached to the rear of the frame residence at 611 W. Mansur was torn down and salvaged, and a new masonry building erected at 920 W. Mansur on lots adjacent to the residence on the corner at 924 W. Mansur where the Pruitt family had lived since 1920. Additions have been made to this new shop building. It now covers about 4,000 square feet.

Faith Publishing House is incorporated under the statutes of Oklahoma as a non-profit religious institution, and no one connected with the work receives any personal profit from the operation. All the board members and co-workers have volunteered their services as unto the Lord, and He supplies their needs as He promised.

My beloved parents, Fred and Mary Pruitt, finished their course of many years in the triumphs of a living faith and their works do follow them. Mother went to be with the Lord in October, 1954, at the age of 64 years. My father, who was the founder and first editor of this publication, departed this life for the Glory World on June 6, 1963, in his 82nd year, concluding 47 years of a very active ministry of the Word by the pulpit and press.

As at the beginning, this paper is still published in the interest of God's people who compose the one and only true Church of God in this "evening light." It stands committed to the teachings and practices of the thirty years of the Reformation prior to 1910-1912, and open for more or additional light, but not "new light" which eclipses or hides the truth which brought forth this precious restoration movement.

Through the hand of God this publishing work has played a major role in continuing the truth of the original movement since the compromise "landslide" of 1910-1912. However, this publication is not officially recognized as the church paper, neither do its publishers aspire for it any such recognition, nor is the Church's headquarters here at Guthrie or any other earthly location. Yet in spirit and in truth, the paper is the servant of the Church as the sub-title and the use of its columns indicate.

The publishing work is supported mainly through free-will offerings, as the present small subscription price

on the paper (35c per year) does not pay the cost of producing it. Then through the Free Literature Fund thousands of papers, tracts, and books are printed and mailed out free of charge. With the postage rates soaring, this is a very large expense item. Where prices on literature are quoted, they do not cover all the costs, so this is primarily and essentially a faith work with the aim to carry the gospel to "every creature" in obedience to the Great Commission which Jesus gave to His Church. A Missionary Fund is also maintained to aid the saints in relaying missionary offerings to home and foreign missionary work.

The Reformation Work Moves Forward

The Reformation in this "evening time" is really a restoration movement, bringing back to the people the truths and practices which prevailed in the morning Church of the first century. Over the years God has given more light and understanding on His Word. In the 1930's, a general forward move in the work of God was noted. More ministers and workers were on the field, more campmeetings and assembly meetings were held, and many souls were added to the Church through salvation. The National Campmeeting, held annually at Neosho (Monark Springs), Mo., was started in 1938, and the attendance and interest have been increasing ever since. The 36th annual National campmeeting will be held there, Lord willing, this summer on July 19-28, 1974. You are cordially invited to attend. —Lawrence D. Pruitt

Prayer Requests

Oregon—"Please earnestly remember Sister Adelia Davis. . . . She has been sick for nine years."

—Emma Busch

Calif.—"I am having a trial of faith. I know God's promises are true and He does all things well. . . . I have pain at times in my leg. . . . Remember me in prayer."

—Opal Williams

Mich.—"I ask you to agree with me in prayer that I will be healed of sugar diabetes. It seems to be affecting my eyesight."

—Sister Ether Hines

Jamaica, West Indies—"Please pray that the Lord will heal us; Bro. Israel Smalling of high blood pressure, and Sister Smalling of high blood pressure and diabetes."

Mich.—"I would like to ask for prayer for an anemic condition. . . . I'm 85 years old and have been trusting the Lord for many years."

—Mrs. Abbie Nelson

Miss.—"I have an afflicted foot and my eyes are giving me lots of trouble. . . . Remember my wife also in prayer."

—Harold Griffin

W. Va.—"Please pray for my brother who has cancer that God will save his soul and heal him, if it is His will. Pray for my daughter. She had a back operation and is in bad condition. Pray that the Lord will save her soul. . . . I have another brother that needs prayer for his body."

—Sister Essie Carter

La.—"Remember Mrs. J. Ellard in prayer. She is very much afflicted. . . . She has some young children that need her so much. She said she is fully trusting the Lord. . . . Husband and I need your prayers as we are not very well."

—Mrs. Beulah Johnson

Mo.—Remember Sister Helen Allen in prayer. She is very ill with the flu.

A number have been sick with the flu, but the Lord has healed. Some yet have a lingering weakness that

needs to be taken away by the Lord's help. Oklahoma had a flu epidemic. Many of the saints prayed that they would not take it, and we are thankful for how God has protected them, as well as myself, from taking it. I feel the Lord can keep us from taking a disease as well as healing us when we get sick. One dear aged Sister told me about the terrible flu epidemic in 1918, and how she prayed earnestly that the Lord would keep her and her family from taking that terrible flu. So many were dying with it. She stood on the scripture which said, "There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling." Psalms 91:10. God heard her cries. She said she helped the neighbors who had it, and helped get the dead ready for burial. Faith in God's Word will bring results.

I am thankful to tell those who have written, asking how I am getting along, that the Lord has truly done much for me. I am truly thankful for strength to be able to work again for the Lord. I am doing my usual load of work. I still have to get my rest and have quietness, as my heart is still weak. I am expecting the Lord to completely heal me. But how wonderful it is to be able to walk again! For about six weeks last spring and summer, I was too weak to hardly be out of the bed. I don't know all that was wrong with me, as I wasn't checked by a doctor, but God knew and He healed me. Praise His precious name! God has brought me back from death's door, and I owe Him my life.

—Sister Marie Miles

Campmeeting Dates for 1974

Following are the Church of God campmeeting dates for 1974, and more complete announcements of each will appear in later issues:—

Oklahoma State at Guthrie, Okla.—May 24 to June 2.

Holly Hill, S. C.—June 7 to 16.

Tulsa, Okla.—June 7 to 16.

Jefferson, Oregon—June 14 to 23.

Oakland, Calif.—June 14 to 23.

General Southern at Hammond, La.—June 28 to July 7, 1974.

Akron, Ohio—July 5 to 14.

National Campmeeting at Neosho (Monark Springs), Missouri—July 19 to 28.

Missouri State at Myrtle, Mo.—August 2 to 11.

Bakersfield, Calif.—August 2 to 11.

Boley, Okla.—August 16 to 25.

California State at Pacoima, Calif.—August 23 to September 1.

Fresno, Calif.—September 6 to 15.

REVIVAL AT AKRON, OHIO

In Akron, Ohio, a revival meeting will be held, Lord willing, from March 31 through April 7, 1974. All-day services are scheduled for both Sundays with lunch at 1 p. m. Services will begin at 7:30 each evening of the week. Spirit-filled ministers will be here to preach the Word of God in its fullness. All nations are welcome.

The Church of God chapel is located at 421 W. Thornton St., Akron, Ohio. For further information, contact the pastor, Sister Hazel Clark, 555 Fernwood Dr., Akron, Ohio 44320.

ALL-DAY MEETING AT SPRINGFIELD, MO.

There will be an all-day meeting with singing in the afternoon on the fifth Sunday, March 31, Lord willing, at the Church of God chapel, 718 N. Kansas, Springfield, Mo. All are cordially invited to come and be with us. For further information, contact Brother Murphey Allen. Phone 417-865-6907.

SPRING MEETING AT WICHITA, KAN.

The annual, spring meeting in Wichita, Kansas, will be held March 29 to April 7. We are looking to the Lord to bless in every way that He sees fit. We will be expecting whomever the Lord burdens for this meeting to come and perform whatever duty the Lord directs them to do. Everyone is welcome at these services. The chapel is located at 1701 N. Ash.

For further information, contact the pastor, Brother Lewis Williams, at 2643 N. Spruce, Wichita, Kans. 67219. Phone 316-264-8481. —Shirley Knight

WEEK-END SERVICES AT PRATTSVILLE, ARK.

On the 5th week-end of March, Lord willing, special services are scheduled at Prattville, Ark. On Saturday night, March 30, a gospel singing will be held, and on Sunday, March 31, there will be all-day services. All are cordially invited to this week-end meeting, especially the saints and ministers. Come and let us worship the Lord together.

For further information, phone Bro. E. A. Loftis at 501-699-4368. —Bro. Bob Forbes

**REPORT OF OKLA. CAMPMEETING HELD
NEARLY SEVENTY-FOUR YEARS AGO**

The Ripley, Okla., campmeeting has come and gone with great victory on the Lord's side. Many souls were rescued and brought back to Father's house. To God be all the glory. Perfect unity seemed to prevail throughout the meeting, and the general expression was that it was the best campmeeting folks ever attended. It was a real feast at Father's table. There was good attendance, and as good behavior as I ever witnessed. The truth went forth with great power. Bros. Geo. Bolds, A. B. Stanberry, E. Shipman, and Ostis Wilson [Senior] were used of the Lord in administering His Word. The dear saints were wonderfully blessed. God sent His ministers well filled with grace and love to feed His flock, and He put it in the hearts of His people to care for the temporal needs of His shepherds. To God belongs all the glory and praise. We are sure God has set His seal on the work here. We expect to have a campmeeting here next year. We believe God wants a permanent campground at this place. May God's blessing rest on His work in every place, is our sincere desire. Pray much for the work in this country. —W. M. Wilson

(Editor's note: The above report appeared in the "Gospel Trumpet" paper dated Aug. 16, 1900. This writer was personally acquainted with Bros. Geo. Bolds, Ostis Wilson, Sr., and W. M. Wilson, and can affirm that they preached the truth to the end just as they had received it in the beginning of the Church of God reformation movement. It is so sad to know of the multitudes who have departed from that old-time Bible truth and brought in many innovations.)

WORK DAY AT THE GUTHRIE CHAPEL

To Oklahoma Saints: On Saturday, March 23, the Oklahoma brethren are expected to meet at Guthrie to repaint the outside woodwork and re-shingle part of the roof of the Guthrie chapel where the Oklahoma State meetings are held annually. Please bring hammers and paint brushes. If you cannot come, and want to help, you may contribute to the fund which is not now sufficient to pay for the materials. Send your offering directly to Sister Frances Deforth, R. 2, Box 34, Guthrie, Ok. 73044. Remember March 23, and come to labor as unto the Lord.

MEXICO CARE-A-VAN REPORT

Okla. (Feb. 18)—Paul gave this instruction to Timothy at a time when the early church was being established in many places: "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; that they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life." 1 Timothy 6:17-19.

We thank the Lord for leading us on a recent mission trip to Mexico. As we endeavor to do His will, He seems to make things "fall into place." When He does it, we don't have to worry.

A few months ago, Bro. Tom Melot and I started praying about a trip to Mexico in January. We did not know how or who would go, or by what means we would go, but when the time came, God supplied everything, including about 400 toys for the children of the villages we would visit. The Lord sent Bro. Ed and Sister Janice Johnston and Rosalie Johnston to make the trip with us. Our Patricia and Roberta Hightower went also. Our Care-a-van of two cars left Guthrie on December 31, 1973. We went through Mexican customs that evening over the border from Eagle Pass, Texas, only after a long contestation over the many toys that we had. Then we went right on to Bro. Sanchez' house there in Piedras Negras, and they were so glad to see us. We watched the new year come in while eating tamales and singing hymns around an open fire, while the town right around us was celebrating with firecrackers, dance and drink. The families here want to have regular worship services, but there is no one here to help and teach them.

The next day we went on to Saltillo and visited friends there that night. Then on to Valle de Santiago to the little, quaint old hotel where we had stayed at other times. From here we made two trips out to the ranches where we had services in three or four places and gave out toys to the children. Some asked for Bibles which we gladly gave them. Some there are trying to live for the Lord and help others to know Him. No one goes there to preach except when we have gone. Pray for these dear people in the "ranches."

On the 5th day of January, we arrived at Bro. Irineo Rama's house and they were so glad to see us. Almost everyone had tears of joy. They had been going through some hard trials, as Irineo's mother was bad sick and her other children had been doing all they could to turn her away from Irineo and the way of salvation. Therefore, in spite of all that Irineo could do, she died without confessing the Lord as her Savior. Bro. Tom, Irineo and I went to visit her and took a gift from Charlotte, and prayed for her, but she was too weak to talk. Three days later, we helped make her casket and got an opportunity to talk to the crowd that gathered at the grave side.

There was much joy for Irineo's family on the morning of the 6th as this is the day that Mexican children traditionally expect gifts instead of the 25th of Dec., as it is the day of the "three wise men." So they opened the boxes that had been sent to them, in which there was something for each one. That day we also visited one of the Indian villages, had services and passed out toys to the children. It was a blessing to hear the brethren sing in Tarascan once again.

We were able to buy about \$100 worth of materials for the chapel roof. To complete the roof will take about \$240 more, as it is a large building, 21 ft. by 51 ft. The grounds beside the chapel are very pretty with mango and avocado trees. It looks like a very nice place for a little "campmeeting." We were impressed to ask them to pray for a meeting and dedication of the building in April, trusting that some could go down at that time.

A year and a half ago, we requested prayer for a family that desired to be delivered from smoking. The oldest girl has been very sick, near death, and this is what it took for the girls to quit smoking. Now Irineo reports that the sick girl is home and the Lord is blessing in having services in this home. Pray for the salvation of this family and others that show much interest and are helping some to finish the chapel in Caltzontzin.

Then we went on to Ciudad Mante where we had contacted Bro. Efrain Huerta and others last summer. We found him encouraged in the Lord, preaching the truth, and looking to the Lord to lead him in the work. We stayed a few days at his parents' home. They are very poor. They don't have oxen or a tractor to farm their little plot, and live in a house made of sticks and palm branches. Efrain, 19 years old, is sad to see his folks suffer and wants to help them, but he feels a greater call to go and preach the Word. It may work out that he can go and be with Bro. Irineo some, that they may be of help to each other.

We do thank the Lord for the contacts we made on this trip. It seemed that we were usually at the right place at the right time, and the Lord seemed to be working with those that He led us to. We contacted some young men that want to study the Word, and when the way is prepared they want to go to Bro. Irineo's place and there learn to work with their hands and study the Word. This is still the burden of Bro. Irineo and myself, to have a Bible-Trade school. The wood-working shop is there under a tree, but there is a need for more hand tools. Also other trades could be taught, like weaving, electricity, welding, and building.

The time is ripe for an all-out effort for the Lord in Mexico. We must help them to help themselves that the church may be completely indigenous soon. Revolution is being talked in Mexico and many other Latin-American countries. Who will invest prayer and means now for a good return in souls and treasures in heaven? The saints in Mexico are so grateful and they are praying for you.

—James Huskey

MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

S. India (Jan. 22)—Dearly beloved Bro. Pruitt and all the dear saints in the church in America: Loving greetings in the most precious name of Jesus Christ, the Morning Star and the Lord of glory.

Thank you very much for your letter dated Jan. 6, and the enclosures were noted with overflowing gratitude. "I am the Lord thy God which brought thee out of the land of Egypt: open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it."

Our general campmeeting at Karikkom from Jan. 2 to 6 was very successful. The Lord showered spiritual blessings on us throughout the meetings. We had morning Bible classes every day, open air meetings at different corners, women's meetings, night public meetings, and house-to-house visits in the day time. While the Spirit-filled men of God spoke from the Word, several arose from their seats weeping and repenting of their sins. Now they are living in Christian happiness and peace. Praise the Lord! Six people were baptized—four women and two men. Pray that they will be faithful until death or the coming of Christ. The attendance at the meeting was so large that many were forced to occupy seats outside the pandal. "Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift."

After the above meeting I went to Karuvatta to conduct gospel meetings in this new Hindu area according to a special call from God. By His grace we conducted four meetings from Jan. 10-13. A new field has been opened for our work. . . . Your prayers and co-operation are essential.

God willing, our campmeeting at Thrikkannamangal will be held Jan. 31 to Feb. 3. . . . As our work expands, the financial needs are also increasing proportionately. . . . Yes, the world conditions everywhere are getting much worse. "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." (Luke 21:28).

Your younger Brother in Christ, —John Varghese

MISSION REPORT FROM OJOS NEGROS, MEXICO

Ojos Negros, B. Cfa., Mexico (Feb. 7)—Dear ones: Greetings of love in the name of the Holy Child, Jesus.

I have a little "lost sheep" with me now. She is a 15-year-old girl recuperating from a bad fever. Her doctor said she should eat lots of vegetables and fruits, but her parents with eight other children could not buy them. It is very little for me to cook, and she is with me night and day. We have a daily Bible lesson together. Pray that I may soon be able to feed this "lost sheep" as the others God has here. I desire to "find" her for the Lord. Continue to remember us all as we labor for the Lord. Love and prayers,

—Sister Opal Kelly
Ap. Postal 284, Ensenada, B. Cfa., Mexico

A WARNING TO THE CHURCH

I feel impressed to put in writing a few thoughts that have been heavy upon my heart.

I have been in the way following the Lord for many years. As I look upon the professing church today, I see a spirit of worldliness increasing more and more. Let each of us who are old enough look back to our sainted parents' way of adorning the doctrine and making attractive the way of the Christian life. They did not cater to the outward adorning of the body which now seems to be contagious. More and more folks are trimming their dresses. This was the first step the "Trumpet" folks took in 1910-1917, as I was old enough to understand and remember it. They started out in a small way, adding a little more until soon the world took over—the tie for the men, and superfluous trimmings for the women.

We need to ask ourselves, "Are we doing this or that to the glory of God or just to make our clothing

more attractive?" Let us please God in our dress and leave the world out. Again, I say, let us look back upon our parents' plainness of dress and see to it that we keep away from worldliness. Let us not plant pride in the hearts of our children by dressing them like the world. We need to watch the length of our dresses. Let us not shorten the length as the world does. If we keep up with the world, we cannot keep up with God. I want to please God every day.

A Sister in Christ,

—Goldie Knapp

Divorce and Remarriage

The usual discussion about divorce and remarriage does not go back far enough. Possibly the greatest sin about the whole problem is the putting away in the first place. It is the putting away that breaks the union between two hearts and lives which had been made one according to God's plan.

Many times small children are cut off from parental love and care, and thus are starved and incomplete socially. Here is the root cause of much juvenile delinquency. Married couples should not break up in the first place. It is a tragic, fatal step in the wrong direction. God calls "Halt" right there. If there were no putting away, there would be no problem about remarriage. It appears that the Lord is as displeased about the putting away as He is about the remarriage. He "hates" it. What harder thing can He say? (See Malachi 2:14-16a.)

Marriage is a divinely ordained institution. It was created and established by God Himself. Its direct, primary objective, of course, is the happiness, purity, and perpetuity of mankind. Vague as it is, however, another great purpose of setting up and maintaining marriage and the home is the illustration and demonstration it affords of the relation of God to His children. "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him." Psalm 103:13. "If ye then being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" Luke 11:13. "Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee." Isaiah 49:15. Like as a father—and how much more! A mother may forget, but not God. The desecration and violation of the happy human home spoils the picture of the heavenly home and the relationship of our Heavenly Father to His earthly children. This is more serious to God than we think. It strikes at Him personally!

How hurt God must be today with the constant "dealing treacherously with the wife of thy youth" when His Son is so faithful to His bride. How He must hate the incessant putting away, so common in American life today, when He loves with an everlasting love.

Jesus said, "From the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother and cleave to

his wife; and they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." Mark 10:6-8. This is the eternal edict. "Thou shalt not commit adultery" is one of the great commandments. Indeed, Moses, for the hardness of the Israelites' hearts, permitted them to write a bill of divorcement. But from the beginning it was not so.

Five times in the New Testament the Lord emblazoned His law on the sacred pages:

1. "Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her. And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery." Mark 10:11, 12.

2. "Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marieth another, committeth adultery: and whosoever marieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery." Luke 16:18.

3. "For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is not an adulteress, though she be married to another man." Rom. 7:2, 3.

4. "Let not the wife depart from her husband: but and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife." 1 Corinthians 7:10, 11.

5. "The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord." 1 Corinthians 7:39. Here, repeated five times over, is God's Word declared in the most unequivocal and categorical manner. "What . . . God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." —Sel.

Once Saved, Always Saved?

A sound Bible doctrine will harmonize with all the Scriptures; otherwise, the interpretation is wrong and that teaching is false.

In the tenth chapter of St. John, verses 27 to 29, is a passage of Scripture which is much quoted by people who believe when a person is once saved he always will be saved, regardless of what he or she will do, or how much he may sin. This is the quotation: (Jesus saith), "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: and I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand."

If we claim this passage of Scripture for us, then we must keep the conditions which go with it, and we find them right at the beginning of that passage which reads: "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me." God's promises are conditional. We can claim the rest of the passage only if we do the first part of it. When we obey

has been so good to me and has given me victory over the enemy. Thank the Lord!

I am sending a little donation to help where needed. We are praying that the Lord will heal your body, and keep the good work going. Pray for me.

Love and prayers, —Sister Maurie Lea

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Okla.—Dear ones in the Faith: I still work from the bed after 36 shut-in years in my global outreach with gospel tracts. Bro. Fred Pruitt of the Faith Pub. House printed my first tract about forty years ago.

Yours, to do what we can these few remaining days,
—Ethel Meadows

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Colo.—Dear Sister Marie, Bro. Pruitt, and all the saints there: Greetings in Jesus who is so good to us all. I have been having the flu or something not pleasant. Thank the Lord, He has helped me.

Bro. and Sister Wollert came home last Saturday, Feb. 2. She said he had come a long ways in the stroke he had, but he will be better contented at home. Keep praying for both of them.

We didn't have our Sunday school yesterday on account of the flu. Help me pray for our unsaved children. I hope all are well there.

Pray for us, —Sister Addie McEndree

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

W. Va.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: We greet you in Christ's dear name. All of us here at Green Bank are very much encouraged at this time. Brother Mart Samons came on January 23, and we have had a wonderful meeting. About eight people went to the altar seeking help from the Lord. How wonderful His love and compassion is for us! We truly want to walk in that strait and narrow path and do the Lord's will, whatever it may be.

We are much looking forward to attending the national campmeeting again this year at Neosho, Mo., and probably others will also come. We keep thinking and talking of the dear saints that we met there last year.

Pray for us that we will stay faithful to the Lord and serve Him the best that we know how.

Your Bro. and Sister in Christ,

—Duane and Lula Sizemore

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Calif.—Dear Sister Marie, and workers, greetings of love: I trust this finds all of you well and happy in the Lord.

I am still going on for the Lord and have no desire to turn back in sin.

The "Faith and Victory" is a blessing to me. I look forward to getting each issue.

Sister Opal Williams gets around with her walker, but she still needs more prayer for complete healing.

Pray for my unsaved husband and children. I remember you folks in prayer each day.

It looks like the coming of the Lord can't be far away.
Love, —Edith Reavis

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

La.—Dear ones in Christ Jesus: I am praising God today because I have here in my view the little paper, "Faith and Victory," the first one I ever saw. A friend gave it to me last Saturday evening, and it is for this month of February. I want to subscribe for this paper for one year. . . . —Mildred Spurlock

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

N. Carolina.—Dear Bro. Lawrence and all the saints scattered everywhere: We greet you in the lovely name of our Lord and Saviour, a name that is above every other name. "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there

is none other name under heaven given among men, where-by we must be saved." Thank the dear Lord!

We surely do appreciate all the dear saints of God, and their good testimonies are uplifting and encouraging to us. Since we don't get to see many of them, we surely do appreciate the good comments by Sister Marie in our Sunday school lessons each Sunday.

I trust you, Bro. Lawrence, are much better in body, and that God will completely heal you to His glory, and for the good of precious souls.

We still covet your earnest prayers for our unsaved children and for the work of God here.

Yours in Christian love, —Stacy Biddix

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Arkansas—Dear Sister Marie, Bro. Lawrence, and all the dear laborers in the Print Shop: Greetings in Jesus' great and wonderful name. Praise the Lord for His love and many blessings.

We had a lovely day at Grubbs, Ark., yesterday [Feb. 10]. Bro. and Sister Leonard Roberts were with us, and we heard two good messages of instructions and warnings. Thank the Lord for His truth and His Spirit. . . . We at Grubbs do thank the Lord for the ministers the Lord sends our way. All here are doing well, but there are many burdens and trials, yet the Lord is present to help, heal, and bless. That is His way of leading us on. In trials He gives grace to bear them. Oh, how good the Lord is! We share each other's burdens!

I love to read the "Faith and Victory" paper—the testimonies and prayer requests. I remember them in prayer. The whole paper is good. . . .

Dear Sister Marie, I thank God for the faith and trust you have in Him, for His healing hand upon you. Let us ever be true and faithful. God will never fail. Dear Bro. Lawrence, we are expecting full healing for you. God is faithful who has promised. Thank the Lord for the confidence we have in Him. All glory be to Him forever. My daily prayer is for the Lord to bless, help and keep all the dear helpers and the work at the Printshop.

Trusting, —Sister N. E. Adams

o

Testimonies and Answers To Prayer



Kansas—Dear Bro. Pruitt and workers: I am thanking the Lord that at the beginning of this new year I am still saved and encouraged in the ways of the Lord.

This past year was an eventful one, but I feel I have grown in the Lord because of these experiences. The year began with the deaths of ones I loved, but the Lord gave comfort. Different saints here in the Wichita congregation have had strange and fiery trials. We learned a lot about bearing one another's burdens. The Lord was faithful and brought each one through with victory and a deeper experience.

The Lord helped me in the spring to see where I was using human wisdom and reasoning about some things rather than getting God's wisdom. I was able to surrender and make a deeper consecration to the Lord. I would like to warn others to examine their opinions and reasonings about things, and if you are using human wisdom, just begin to seek the Lord. He can help straighten you out, help you to surrender more, and let go and let God take over.

In the fall, we had a different type of an experience than ever before. While my 10-year-old daughter was walking to school, she was grabbed by a teen-age boy, who threatened her with a pop bottle. He then carried

her into his garage to hold her hostage until her girlfriend arrived because he wanted her also. When my daughter screamed, he pulled a knife and put it to her throat and said he would kill her if she didn't hush. After a few minutes, he released her and told her to get on out of there. We know that was God working and she wasn't hurt in any way, but was very frightened. We feel the Lord allowed it, but protected her and we have thanked and praised God very much. My child found comfort in God's promises and in the song that says, "No matter what happens, He will care for me."

Then on Dec. 13th, I ran a red light and hit another car. There were seven of us in the car, but the Lord kept us from being thrown out or broken up. Yet there were bumps, cuts, bruises and fright. My first thoughts, after finding no one badly injured, were ones of thanksgiving and praise to God for being so merciful to us. The insurance company totaled out the car, so I have to get another one. I feel this is all part of my making and I am praying to be humble enough that I will come forth as pure gold. God in His great wisdom is trying to get us to heaven the easiest way, and the sooner we become pliable in His hands, the easier our pathway will be.

May God bless each saved individual and help him to consecrate to the death of self that nothing shall separate him from the love of God.

I am sending an offering to be used where needed.
Christian love, —Shirley Knight

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Ark.—Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior: I am happy to be able to write of the Lord's many blessings to me. One night I was having pains in my body. We were praying and Husband asked if I would write to tell of the Lord's healing me. As I said that I would, the Lord took all the pain away. I am so thankful for His mercy. Pray for us.

Christian love, —Geneva Bradley

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Oregon—Dear Sister Marie: Love and greetings in the precious name of Jesus. God has abundantly blessed our son, Dennis, this year with so much better health than he has ever had. He has had two bad spells of asthma this winter, but the Lord was so good to us. Irwin is still saved and was sanctified at the Jefferson, Oregon, meeting this past summer. Dennis was saved at the Assembly meeting in November. . . . Please pray with me that they keep saved through their lives. Also, pray for me that I will be the example God would have me be as their mother.

I am so thankful for what God has done for you.
Much love, —Sister Beverly Wattenbarger

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Calif.—Dear saints everywhere: As a child, I was brought up in a Norwegian Lutheran church, baptized, and confirmed. Later, in Ada, Minn., I attended different denominations. I wasn't saved, wasn't satisfied, and there was a craving and longing in my heart for something. In 1931, I received my first "Faith and Victory" paper. In my heart I said, "This is it," though I was not acquainted with the editor, Brother Fred Pruitt. I had my hair bobbed at the time, and wore a blue-white diamond ring which I cherished very much. In a paper about that time, using Bible scriptures, Brother Pruitt condemned bobbed hair and wearing jewelry. I was offended, but I took the Bible and looked up the scriptures to see if I was wrong in bobbing my hair and wearing my jewelry. (1 Tim. 2:9, 10). Later, I wrote Bro. Pruitt and confessed that I was angry at him for condemning the wearing of jewelry and bobbed hair, begged his forgiveness,

then I confessed to God and begged His forgiveness, and He did forgive.

I had been using pills and medicine. Then I read in the "Faith and Victory" paper that we should trust the Lord for the healing of our bodies. I threw the pills into the stove, and I turned the medicine bottles upside down outdoors. Because I obeyed God as I looked up the scriptures printed in the paper, I was later saved when I met the saints. . . .

Christian love, —Amelia Smith

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Tenn.—Dear ones: I want to tell that God answered your prayers for the healing of my pleurisy. After writing to you for prayer, I went on to church services. . . . While sitting there, the pain left and I began thanking God. I know you prayed the prayer of faith, and I thank everyone for praying for me.

With love, —Mrs. May Ralston

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Okla.—To the saints everywhere: I am the daughter of one of the twin Allen sisters of Oklahoma City. I truly thank God for what He has done for me this past year. I took sick last February with pains in my legs, feet and hands. I would walk the floor and cry, and this lasted for about three months. Then my limbs began to swell. My mother had to feed and take care of me like a baby. My hand and arm were all I could move. Neither my mother nor I could sleep because when she wasn't praying, she was trying to make me comfortable. Bro. and Sister Herman Kelly and the saints prayed for me, and came to our aid with food and money, for which I am very thankful. One Sunday evening Bro. Otis Hill came to talk to me about my soul. I accepted the Lord, and Bro. Hill prayed for my healing. I believed God would heal me. That night I slept all night for the first time in 60 days. The next day my cousin came to see how I was doing. The swelling had gone down in my feet and legs. Now I am going to school and walking anywhere I want to go. I know God heals today. All He needs is a chance and a believing heart. Continue to pray for me, body and soul.

—Loretta Weatherly

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

La.—To the saints everywhere: We would like to write our testimony of God's wonderful blessings to us. It seems that we have many battles, but we have found that the hotter the battle—the sweeter the victory.

As many of you know, I have muscular dystrophy, and several years ago the doctors gave a prediction that I would live to be about 36 years old, and also advised that we shouldn't have any children because they might be affected by the disease, but I am now 43 years old and we have had seven healthy children. Six are still living, and enjoying good health for which we give God all the praise.

Muscular dystrophy affects the muscles of the body, causing them to just dwindle away. Some may remember several years ago at the Guthrie, Okla. Assembly meeting when my stomach muscles that cause the food to digest had stopped working and I was in a pretty desperate condition. The saints got under the burden, and in a little while the Lord so wonderfully healed me that I have had very little trouble with that since then. As a matter of fact, I have to watch my weight because I enjoy food a little too much.

The last few months I have had trouble with my back. It felt like something was out of place. The pain was real bad. It seemed to affect my left leg with numbness and a drawing. The Muscular Dystrophy Association has a clinic that a person can go to, and they try to

help with braces, corrective shoes, examinations, etc. I went to them to see what was wrong, and they said that the muscles in my back were dying and causing my back to twist, and that a disk had ruptured. They said it might heal so they advised me to go home and be real careful not to lift over five pounds. If it didn't heal, the prediction was that the only comfort I could get would be from an operation.

The saints got under the burden and really held on in prayer. One night, while lying in bed, I felt that something had happened, but I had been in such pain I was almost afraid to move. So I waited a while and dropped off to sleep, and when I awoke it was daylight. I was on a hospital bed in the living room and no one else was up, so I said to myself, "I believe something has happened." So I tried twisting a little and it didn't hurt. Then I raised up a little, then eased out of bed and then started praising the Lord. He had so wonderfully touched my back. Since that time, I have had a few trials, but was doing right well until one Monday morning. It was so pretty outside that I really had plans of things I wanted to get done that day. The first thing was to put the new license plates on the cars. I knelt down behind the car, and when I started to get up, I sort of twisted sideways and felt a tearing sensation in my back. I made it to the house and lay down. It kept getting worse and Dora [my wife] asked if I wanted to call the saints. It seemed like we had been calling on them so much that I hoped that God would touch me without bothering them. But the pain got worse and I could get no relief, so we called around for prayer. On Tuesday night, Bro. and Sister Ralph Beisly, Sister LaVerne Manuel, Sister Myrtis Flynn, Bro. and Sister Probst, and Bro. Salvadore DiDio came over, and we just had a real prayer meeting. The Lord heard and answered, and I felt the touch of the Lord. I'm getting around again. The Lord has surely worked miracles in our family and we are thankful.

Dora has arthritis and it has been getting worse. It affects her hands, wrists, back, and about every joint of her body. Recently it has gotten so bad that she has to be in a wheel chair. This was a real trial for her to bear, but God has given her grace. She is a real sunbeam around here, and we are looking to the Lord to raise her up also. We desire the prayers of the saints in her behalf.

—Dale and Dora Doolittle

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Mo.—My dear Sister Marie, greetings of love: I trust this finds you feeling well in body, blest and encouraged in your soul. We have a heartfelt of thanks and praise to the dear Lord for all He is to us, and for giving us such a wonderful healing to our body once again.

During the Guthrie Assembly meeting, I was in much pain. I had been bothered off and on for quite some time with trouble in my left side. At this time it set in and went through my whole left side, from my shoulder and down into my ankle. The enemy was painting things rather dark to me, but I knew the Lord was well able to heal me. We had Bro. Eddie Wilson and his wife, Sister Roberta, to come over to our house while they were in Springfield visiting her sister. They prayed before coming, and the Lord gave them the very thing to inspire my faith even more. So they prayed with us, and we took it by faith. Yes, we had symptoms to come, but by the grace and help of God we stood against them, held our ground against the enemy and stood on God's precious promises. Thank the dear Lord, He has healed me. All praise be to the dear Lord. I can't thank Him enough. What a mighty God we serve! We appreciate all the saints' prayers in our behalf.

"Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, just to take Him at His Word, just to rest upon His promise, just to know, thus saith the Lord."

We do mean by His grace to follow Him all the way, to live to please Him, and to be ready when He breaks through the clouds. It seems that His coming is so near. So many feel it in these last days. Surely, we are in perilous times. Let us look up for our redemption draweth nigh.

May God bless all of you there and your labors for Him.

Love and prayers,

—Natalie Allen

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Okla.—I do thank God for healing me, and answering prayer so recently. I am fully trusting God for all things. It is wonderful how the Lord has supplied every need and directed in my life in these later years.

Recently, I took an attack of bursitis in my right shoulder. It was so painful; I could not move my arm much. I was not able to comb my hair, or attend to my dressing without some help. At the Lord's Print Shop, where I work as cook, different ones were kind to help out, and I was able, with pain, to continue my work there. Never before had I run a temperature with bursitis, but I began having fever. For two or three evenings I had temperature. On Saturday I felt so much worse that I went to bed before dark. Mary, my daughter, called Sister Vera Forbes, my neighbor, and asked her to have prayer for me.

On Sunday morning I felt able to go to the chapel for Sunday services, but I could feel the fever returning. After the preaching service, I asked for prayer and to be anointed. When I got home, I began chilling. The thought crossed my mind, "You might as well go to bed now." But I resisted, and stayed up, and the fever left. On Monday morning I felt so tired and it seemed discouragement pressed me. The enemy suggested, "You aren't able to work." Mary was combing my hair as these feelings and suggestions crossed my mind. I felt an utter weariness. A chorus that I had not heard for years flashed into my mind:

"Don't be down-hearted, cheer up, cheer up!

For Jesus is on the throne,

And He will supply every need from on high,

Look up, look up, look up!"

After I had started my work in the kitchen, all at once my arm began to feel much better. The pain left. The stiffness began to improve and it is almost gone. It is wonderful how the Lord answered prayer for me, and I love and thank Him.

—Thelma Sprague

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Mich.—To the saints everywhere: It was late last fall that I was taken with a bad sickness, but I know it was for my good as I was taught some precious lessons. I had been giving music lessons and it had been taking up a lot of my time that I could have been using for God (although I did talk to my students quite a bit about the Lord). Sometimes I would be so tired and nervous that I wasn't reading, praying, or working for God as I should. People would call me for prayer, and maybe I would be giving a lesson and would have to tell them I would pray later as I was busy at the time. Oh, dear ones, God must come first. I felt God wanted me to write this in my testimony. Perhaps some will read this who are tied up in something in which they can't be their best for God. Oh, dear ones, just cut loose and let God have His way. Oh, I am so happy since I am endeavoring to put God first, Praise His dear name! This old world

is so very wicked and we must work hard to win at least a few before Jesus comes.

Now before this sickness came I told the Lord if He wanted me to quit giving lessons to cause them to quit, and I asked others to pray. After we got to praying about them quitting, one after the other quit for one reason or another, until I had just two left. I have prayed about them also but they have not left, so I believed it was all right to keep them, as I seem to get along fine with just them, and I am also able to have time to work for the dear Lord. But if God said to give them up also, I would do it.

I felt the dear Lord allowed me to have this sickness to teach me not to take on any more students, as just before this sickness came, another organ teacher called me and wanted to know if I would be willing to take three more students. I was surely tempted of the devil to do this, as we could surely use the money. The devil likes to put out bait to try to keep us from doing what God wants us to do. Now I didn't promise her for sure that I would take these students, but the good Lord knew how to end this temptation, as about this time I got sick, and I told the Lord I would call in the morning and tell this other teacher that I wouldn't accept the students. I told her I had promised the Lord I would not take them. She acted like she couldn't understand why I wouldn't take them. I had to suffer plenty for that. I feel the good Lord wanted to teach me a lesson I wouldn't forget right away, and, praise the Lord, I haven't forgot. I took real sick at this time. I don't know what I had as I didn't go to a doctor, but trusted the good Lord for my healing. It seemed that the circulation of my blood was poor, and I was in awful misery. I don't think I got much rest day or night for a while. I think there was one time I almost wished I could pass out for just a little bit just to get some relief, as it was so wearing on me.

I called Sister Marie and asked her to pray and to tell them all at the Publishing House to pray. They were praying here for me. Bro. and Sister McCoy came by, and I was anointed and prayed for, but I didn't get the complete victory right then. The good Lord heard all those prayers that each one prayed and very soon I was completely delivered of all those symptoms. The good Lord wonderfully healed me. Praise His blessed name! I have reconsecrated my life to God. I want Him to come first in my life at all times, and He is really helping me. He has done so much for me down through my life. Time is getting so short. Dear ones, what we do, we must do quickly. We need to let people know "What A Mighty God We Serve!"

Since this sickness, I took sick again with something else. My side started hurting. I thought it might be appendicitis or gall bladder. I didn't know what it was. I called one or two for prayer here, and then called Sister Marie at Guthrie and I told her about my side and asked her to pray. Praise God, it wasn't long after this that God completely healed me of this also. Praise God forever! Oh, how I love Jesus. He is so good to me.

—Sister Eva Wilkins

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Oklahoma.—Dear saints there and everywhere: Greetings of Christian love to each of you. Thank God for saving my soul! Thanks to each one of you who has remembered me in your prayers.

There are many ways the dear saints here in Shawnee showed their love to me. For some time I had been praying, but not until I was willing to give up my high blood pressure pills, heart tablets, kidney medicine and other medications did I pray through. The old devil kept

saying, "You know you could have another stroke, perhaps much worse than the other two you had."

On the morning of Jan. 21, 1974, I prayed through. I turned around and there was my TV. I walked over and started rolling it into a room I wasn't using this winter. I said, "You have to go, too." Also, I have given up a favorite pastime—playing dominoes. Some of my friends don't understand. I told one friend I didn't want to do anything that would keep me out of heaven. She said, "Oh, no, I don't either." She said, "Floy, I don't think it's wrong." I told her that I must do what I felt was the right thing for me. She said, "Sure, you do."

Thank the dear Lord for forgiving me, and for that heavy burden being rolled away. Many years I lived in sin, but God spared my life. I had major surgery, and two strokes. The first one I had was on my job. The next one, I fell while up town. X-rays showed that my back was almost broken in two or three places. My knees had been fractured. Different doctors didn't think I would ever walk again. I used a walker for more than one and one-half years. Then I used a cane. Thank the dear Lord, I can walk now. I thank Him each day for letting me walk again. Since giving up all the medications I have been feeling better though my body is far from being well. I am thankful to be able to do things for myself. I have had the flu and it has left me very weak. God has been so good to give me this chance to live for Him. I don't want one thing in my life that isn't pleasing to Him. With His help I intend to spend the rest of my life for the One who shed His blood that I might be saved. Bless His dear name!

To each of you: Please forgive me for disappointing you; most of all, for grieving my wonderful Savior. Please pray for me.

Your Sister in Christ,

—Floy Woolery

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Mich.—Dearest Sister Marie: Greetings in the blessed name of Jesus. We want to thank all for the prayers that were sent up to the throne of mercy for my dear mother who, on Dec. 18th, had an awful fall down our 12 basement steps. She fell to the bottom. She had a large bump on her head which filled the palm of my hand. Her right arm from the elbow down was badly bruised. It was black like burnt flesh. Her hip and thigh were bruised badly. Her ribs were hurt. Her hand and wrist were really swollen and crooked. We do not know if anything was broken or not. Mom said, "The Lord knows, and that's all that matters, and He will heal me and make me well again with all the dear ones praying."

After I called you, dear Sister Marie, she began to feel much better. Praise the dear Lord!

We applied the anointed napkin, which you sent, to her body, in the name of Jesus. It wasn't too long after, she was able to get up out of bed alone and help herself. It was a hard struggle and the days were dark, but thank the Lord, He sent the light. Now things are so much brighter.

I cried very much over Mom's awful bruises, but she said, "Don't cry. This isn't anything. Jesus was bruised for our transgressions and they were much worse than mine." She didn't take any medicine or anything for the pain which she suffered. She leaned upon our great God all the way.

She still has some pain in her body and her wrist bone is a little swollen, but she can now [Jan. 31] use her hand some. Pain is still in her wrist and hand, but she is trusting the Lord to completely heal them. She said, "The Lord has never lost a case yet. When He heals, He

does His job well." She is very happy she can be up and around again.

Mom has never been in the hospital in her life. She has been sick, but the Lord always healed and made her well again. She loves Psalm 121:1, 2: "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth," and Psalm 91:11, 12: "For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone." It surely pays to trust in our Lord and Master who can take care of us at all times. He protects us from many terrible things.

When different ones look at the stairway where Mom fell, they shake their heads and say it was a miracle. It makes us think how great and powerful our God is. Mom said she can't thank all of you enough for all your good prayers of faith for her healing. She says, "May God bless you all richly in body and soul." She can't thank the Lord enough for touching her body. We still need your prayers!

Much Christian love,

—Sister Olive Gettersson and Mother

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Okla.—Dear Sister Marie and workers at the Print Shop: Greetings in Jesus' dear name. This leaves me encouraged and determined to make it to heaven. I am still not well in my body. Pray that the Lord will increase my faith.

We went to Grubbs, Ark., last week-end [Feb. 9, 10]. We had two good services and got to visit two families. Three got saved and others were seeking for help. There is so much to be done and so few to go.

I love the Lord with all the knowledge I have and I want to help others. The Lord has been so good to us and our unsaved loved ones. God has spared them thus far. I surely thank Him for His great mercy. I have many requests for sick and lost souls.

—Sister Leonard Roberts

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Ohio—Dear Sister Marie, and Bro. Pruitt, greetings to you in the name of our most precious Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ who gave His life that we today could enjoy that most precious gift and priceless possession of salvation.

These few lines leave us pressing on toward the mark set before us, with more earnest and fervent prayer that God would help me to press, to persevere and run as never before. We surely see that we are living in the very last days, and our desire is to hear the Lord say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." We see so much falling away in these last days that it surely stirs my soul to be faithful to God and His calling.

My prayer is that all there are well and still contending for the faith that was once delivered to the saints. Do remember us earnestly in prayer as we have many requests.

Yours in His service, —Sister LaDolia Fuller

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Mo.—Dear laborers in Christ: When thinking of the promises of God, it gives me strength for the day. One of them is in Hebrews 13:5, "... I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." It is good to know that Christ dwells within our hearts.

Jesus said unto His disciples, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." Matt. 16:24. Denying self is one of the main things we have to do in order to grow in grace and bring forth fruit in our Christian lives. We must say,

"Not I, but Christ." When we have been selfish and have had our own way, it leaves us unhappy, dissatisfied and feeling empty. Self-denial does not mean dying for Christ, but it does mean living entirely for Him. When we fail to deny ourselves, we lose our first love which is that experience that keeps us in connection with God. Jesus said, "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it." Matthew 16:25.

We are living in the last days. With a love for the truth, let us pray to the one and only true God, seeking the light, and wisdom, and a vision from above which will enable us to avoid deception, but rather find and walk upon the strait and narrow way. It is the way of the cross which is despised by the world, but it is the only way that leads to life eternal. I pray that many will find the true way before it is too late.

Your Brother in Christ,

—Alfred Peterson

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Wisconsin—Dear Sister Marie: I am enclosing a check. . . . Please use it where it is most needed. May the Lord bless all of you as you labor for Him.

How we need to watch and pray these days! We live out in the country, but it seems we are not as safe as we would like to think. In the cities it is worse, but we are trusting the Lord and living as best we know how.

We enjoy reading the "Faith and Victory" paper and the "Bible Lessons"; not only reading, but doing our best to obey and grow in grace as the Lord has ordained that we should.

The Lord has been answering prayer and we can see some are becoming concerned about their way of living. We crave your prayers, for we long to see others restored who once knew the true way and have turned to the world.

In Christian love,

—Mrs. Florence Knoll

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Ohio—Dear friends in Christ: Greetings in Jesus' precious name. We are praying that your printing paper will be delivered soon. We appreciate the "Faith and Victory" coming in every month. It is so refreshing and encouraging to read the many articles concerning our brothers and sisters in Christ.

There is joy in my heart because I can still claim salvation and I know that God is still on His throne ruling the universe. Praise the Lord!

May God bless and keep all of you.

Yours in Christ,

—Margaret Cornelius

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Mich.—Dear Sister Marie, co-workers, and all readers of the paper: Greetings to you in the lovely name of Jesus.

We thank the Lord for His many rich blessings to us. We are so thankful for the blessed privilege of trusting our loving Savior in such trying times as we are experiencing these days. God is surely our Rock and Fortress, and an everlasting help in time of need. Praise His name! There is never a trial or burden so heavy that Jesus will not or cannot carry for us. He is always there to carry the heaviest end of the load. We must put our full trust in Him, and expect God to do wonderful things for us. We can never have doubts or fears, but simple trust will always bring the answer.

There are many out in the world searching and seeking for just what Jesus has to offer. He tells us in His Word, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest to your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Matt. 11:28-30. Thank the Lord!

When I was lost and deep in sin, not knowing which way to turn, Jesus then found me, forgave me of my many sins, and set me in the way I should go—the way that leadeth to heaven. I still remember when God forgave me. I felt a great burden being lifted from my back. Oh, what a glorious day for me—to be washed in the blood of the Lamb, and set free from the bondage of sin! Praise His name forever! Since then, there have been many lessons to learn, trials to go through, and yes, some failures along the way, but God in His mercy forgave, and always brought encouragement to our hearts to press on. Oh, dear ones, I would never exchange this walk with the Lord for anything this old world has to offer. Along with the trials, there have been many days of enjoyment and blessings that the world knows not of, nor can it offer anything to compare with its richness. And what He has done for me, He can do for all those that seek His face. Come, bow at the cross, receive full pardon, and go on your way rejoicing.

We were glad to be permitted to attend the recent Guthrie Assembly meeting, and fellowship with the dear saints there. We certainly received good spiritual food for our souls, and much encouragement to go all the way with the Lord. Also, while we were out in that part of the country, we were able to visit with our children, which, of course, we enjoyed very much.

May the Lord richly bless, keep, and help each and every one, is our prayer.

Christian love,

—Bro. Ralph, Sister Dorothy Wilkins, and son, Ralph

The Rainbow Angel of Revelation

(Chapter 10)

"And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire: and he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth, and cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices" Revelation 10:1-3.

The events particularly connected with the sounding of the sixth trumpet are recorded in chapter 9. But the Revelator has other events to introduce before the sounding of another trumpet—the seventh and final. Therefore, all of chapter 10 and part of chapter 11 to the 15th verse come in parenthetically between the sixth and seventh trumpets.

This rainbow angel is not one of the trumpet angels already sounded previously, nor yet the seventh trumpet angel (third woe angel) whose final blast will mark the end of probationary and prophetic time. A closer look will make this point clear. Note that the previous six angels had trumpets with which they "sounded." This angel had no trumpet, but he "cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth." (Verse 3.) His cry like the roar of a lion would scarcely sound like the blast of a trumpet. (We need more roars of a lion in these last days to awaken the slumbering nations.)

This distinguished messenger from heaven appears on earth with a special message. The description of this "mighty angel" clothed with a cloud, a

rainbow upon his head, his face as the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire indicates his God-given authority to make this most solemn declaration that the end of time is near. (Verses 5, 6). The symbol is drawn from the heavenly world and the scene is laid upon earth, so we must look to history of the true Church to find its fulfillment in some distinguished messengers. This we recognize in that holy body of Spirit-filled New Testament ministers whom God began to raise up about the year 1880 A. D., at which time was ushered in this "evening light" restoration movement. Continuing down to the present time, the ministry of the Church of God has ever proclaimed that heaven-born message that probationary time for all mankind shall be no more when our great High Priest shall leave His mediatorial throne at the sounding of the seventh trumpet. The proclamation of this angel indicates that there will be no "age to come," that this "evening time" of the gospel day is the last and final warning call from heaven before the sun of time sets on the western horizon. This same message is given in more detail in three phases by the messages of the three angels in chapter 14:6-12. Read and ponder them.

The rainbow angel, standing upon the sea and earth (indicating his universal message) with his hand uplifted to heaven, speaks in thundering tones of the seventh angel but not as the seventh angel. (Vs. 5, 6.) He speaks of the seventh angel in these words, "But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God shall be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets." (Verse 7.) In the "Emphatic Diaglott," which is a word for word English translation from the original Greek text, this verse reads thus, "But in the days of the blast of the seventh trumpet, when he may be about to sound, and the secret of God should be completed, as he announced its glad tidings to his servants the prophets." This rendering clearly indicates that the "mystery of God shall be finished" or completed when the seventh trumpet is "about to sound." The door of mercy and salvation closes then, and not years after it begins to sound.

What is the meaning of the "mystery of God" that shall be finished? Is it some special revelation brought to light just at the end of time? Let the Scriptures answer. Jesus told His disciples, "It is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven." Matt. 13:11. Paul writes: "The mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but NOW is made manifest to his saints." Col. 1:26. Again he says, "To make known the mystery of the gospel." Eph. 6:19. Clearly the gospel—the good tidings of redemption through Christ—is the "mystery" to be finished or completed. It was given to take out from the nations a people for God's name. Acts 15:14. Its finishing must, as a matter of course, be the close of this work. Then a voice from the throne of God will proclaim, in tones which roll like thunder through all the earth, the solemn sentence, "It is done." Rev. 16:17. —Lawrence Pruitt